



DANCE GCSE

Ofsted said: "There is an aspirational and broad curriculum. There is a wide range of GCSE vocational courses to study at key stage 4." May 2026

DANCE GCSE SPECIFICATION AT A GLANCE

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Candidates will pursue a course leading to the award of a GCSE 9-1 qualification at the end of Year 11.

END OF COURSE ASSESSMENT

Dance is split into 2 components: Performance & Choreography and Dance Appreciation.

Component 1: Performance and Choreography

Performance work (30% / 40 marks of GCSE)

- Set phrases through a solo performance
- Duet/trio performance

Choreography (30% / 40 marks of GCSE)

Solo **or** group choreography

- A solo **Or**
- A group dance for two to five dancers

Practical work is internally marked and externally moderated.

Component 2: Dance appreciation

40% / 80 marks of GCSE

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills
- Critical appreciation of own work
- Critical appreciation of professional works

Work is assessed in a **written exam** based on students' own practice in performance and choreography and the GCSE dance anthology.

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

Practical: 60%

Written: 40%

SUPPORTING TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES:

Dance and theatre trips will be organised throughout the duration of the course, as well as opportunities to participate in a range of extra-curricular dance clubs, performances and in workshops with professional dancers.

SHOULD MY CHILD STUDY DANCE?

This course hopes to inform and develop creative and artistic individuals and broaden their aesthetic, social and cultural experiences through a holistic engagement with dance.

As well as practical experience, it will enable critical appreciation in its physical, artistic, aesthetic and cultural contexts.

What will my child gain from dance?

Dance offers students a unique, creative opportunity to arm themselves with valuable transferable skills: creative problem solving, team work, research, communication skills, extended writing, analysis of space and shape, reading abstract ideas through analysis.

Dance offers an opportunity to be expressive and creative using the body as a tool to communicate.

Where will dance take my child?

GCSE dance uniquely combines skill sets: creativity with problem solving and team work with analysis to name a few, leading to a huge range of suitable career choices and further education opportunities.

Further reading/suggested revision materials:

AQA GCSE Dance
www.aqa.org.uk

For further information, please contact:

Head of Dance:
**Miss D Reynolds, BA (Hons) Performing Arts/
MA Screen Performance & Communication Techniques**
reynoldsd@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Goldington Academy
Haylands Way
Bedford
MK41 9BX

Principal: Mr F Galbraith

Tel: (01234) 261516

Email: office@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Website: www.goldington.beds.sch.uk

 www.facebook.com/Goldington